

September 25, 1999

Mr. Michael Friedman
Lead Deputy Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
Fishers Lane, Room 1471
Rockville, MD 20857

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Dear Mr. Friedman:

I write to voice my grave concern regarding the FDA's stance that foods produced with genetically modified ingredients do not merit labeling. The Consumer Right to Know is to be applied to all foods that qualitatively change by virtue of an ingredient or process. I contend that transmuting a plant's genetic structure by forcefully mating it with a species that would non naturally be a viable breeding partner absolutely qualified as a "qualitative change." The destabilizing of a plant's DNA structure through genetic engineering technology assures that new and unknown metabolic processes will be taking place in that plant and all of its descendants. The byproducts of these processes come into our bodies as proteins and enzymes when we eat foods made from genetically engineered crops.

There have been no long-term safety studies performed on these crops to assure that they are safe for human consumption. Until now the burden of proof of safety has laid for the most part in the hands of the chemical companies who are producing this technology, and in whose economic interests it is to get these seeds to market as quickly as possible. I do not want to eat genetically engineered food products, and I do not want to feed them to my family.

I call for mandatory safety testing by independent scientific bodies of every transgenic crop before seed is released for planting. And I demand the labeling of GMO food - without labeling our citizen rights of free choice are dangerously imperiled. What would be far preferable would be to HAVE NO GENETICALLY ENGINEERED SEEDS OR FOODS AT ALL.

Sincerely,



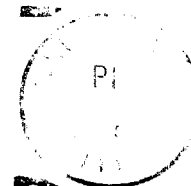
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